

Pocahontas-7

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Calvin Price Marlinton. "

W. Va. Geological Survey. By Paul H Price.



Comstock And Industry. Samuel G Smith Hillsboro. L. 7a. Pocahontas County.

Limestone is found in many sections of Pocahontas County the elevation ranging from 2200 feet to about 3,000 feet in which it is found, in Little Leas District limestone is found on Locust Creek, Stamping Creek, the entire section in and around Hillsboro from above Millpoint to near the top of Drop Mountain, in Edray District it is found on Swago Creek, Dry Creek in many sections Elk River but the greatest deposit is found near Edray, limestone is found in many sections of the Greenbank District but most of it is found near Danmore and on Back Mountain above Cass.

X Limestone was used for agricultural purposes as far back as the 80s but has been used very extensively for this purpose since about 1936 one of the largest limestone operations in Pocahontas County is found operating on Back Mountain above Cass, here Robert Hevener has a draw kiln that put out 850 tons of lime in 1940 this limestone is found on elevation around 3,000 feet and its purity is 99% lime, the equipment used by Hevener consists of the following an air compressor, a large truck to deliver with, he employs 5 men in getting out the rock the lime is sold to farmers in Pocahontas, Randolph and Pendleton Counties. This operation was started in 1937.

In 1939 G. & Young of Buckeys erected two draw kilns at the Overholt place on the west side of Swago Creek and in 1940 he burned about 600 tons of lime which was bought by the farmers of Pocahontas County, he employs four

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About 1937 Samuel O Bartholomew built a draw kiln at the foot of Droop Mountain on the farm of H.W Beard he operated here for two years lost his lease on the quarry and in the meantime Lewis Gay had built a draw kiln in the lee of the quarry on the late John Gay farm so Bartholomew went in with him Gay did the burning and Bartholomew did the delivering they continued to operate this way until 1941 when Bartholomew took over the entire operation and today he is employing from 5 to 7 men keeps a truck busy day and night hauling coal from Greenbrier and Nicholas Counties and delivering lime to Pocahontas, Greenbrier and Nicholas County farmers, H.W Beard is now operating a draw kiln at the foot of Droop Mountain his output is sold locally to the farmers of Little Levels besides several hundred ton that has been applied to the late H.L Beard estate.

About 1939 William Browning built a draw kiln on the Browning farm on Locust Creek his output is sold in Pocahontas and Raleigh County as he gets most of his coal from the Raleigh coal fields. He employs from 2 to 3 men and has a delivery truck to deliver the lime to the farmers, this kiln was built by Hesse Lendis of Hillsboro. The Young kiln built by George Reventer of Idray.

About 1939 F.V Ruckman began to grind limestone into lime his crusher ^{head} operates at Stephen Holt Run his limestone is sold to the farmers of Pocahontas County. It employs from 2 to 3 men has a tractor and the lime pulverizer also a delivery truck besides these operations you find draw kilns on many farms as well

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they burn on the ground with logs and coal using dirt to hold the heat
at this time the manufacture of lime is one of the leading industries of
Pocahontas County, this limestone will make history for its self for in years
to come you will still be able to see the affects of where it was applied years
before. The ground limestone is used in concrete work and today we have many
of our better buildings and bridges that have our native limestone in them as
well as the limestone that has been used in the construction of our hard sur-
faced roads, the hard top on the Smeco Trail or route 219 from Buckeye to Mi-
llipoint came from the head of Steyens Hole Run as the Mill Construction Co. of
Va. opened up this quarry. At Idray there has been a limestone quarry for many
years and the town of Marlinton has opened up a quarry on the Elk Mt. road this
limestone is used in the street work in the town.

Limestone has been used quite extensively in the many buildings made
with brick made from crushed limestone and one of the largest of this make is
the Grade School building at Hillsboro, the stone coming from a local quarry ne-
ar Hillsboro and erected by the late W. W. Kinnison of near Hillsboro. Limestone
crushed at local quarrys has been used very extensively in making forms for bu-
ildings, basements, foundations and in the many sidewalks that are found in the
towns of Pocahontas County as the side walks at Hillsboro built in recent years
have been made with crushed limestone coming from a quarry on Hill Run, this qu-
arry is on the old lot for the railroad grade and this ledge of rock was known as

minerals and industry. Samuel G Smith, Hillsboro, W. Va. Pocahontas County.
The pinkish rock, Pocahontas County is rich in limestone and the richest
locations are Little Levels District in and around Hillsboro, in Fdray Dist-
riect at and near Fdray, on and near Dave Creek at Backcye and on Beck Mt.
above Cass in the Greenbank District some testing as high as 99% pure lime.
The cave at Stevens Hole Run was the home of Steven Swell for several ye-
ars and is now a point of interest for tourists for here you find a high li-
nestone cliff in which is the above cave, many springs coming out of the roc-
ks and all around are Spruce, Hemlock and Cedar trees which makes this a point
of interest to tourists and this could be developed to one of the leading pla-
ces of interest in Pocahontas County.

Limestone and its products are now and will be the leading industry
of Pocahontas County for years to come as it is just in its infancy.

Pocahontas County has many outcroppings of Marble all on the Nor-
th Western side of the Greenbrier River, this marble crops out at about 2600
feet starting at Droop Mountain and extending to Beck Mt. in the upper end of
the county. In the vicinity of Hillsboro and the head of Stamping Creek we ha-
ve marble of a thickness of from 25 to 40 feet these are in color from red to
green to a pinkish tinge and from that to the various shades of gray, this gray
stone could be used as a building stone, the brighter colors will product sta-
nces for ornamental purposes. Samples have been taken out by the C & O R.R.
in the hopes some cement company would become interested and so far
I can't find anything more.

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only interest shown was by a monument concern down in Georgia, when our
state capitol was being built it was hoped Pocahontas County could supply
the marble to build it with serious consideration and sampling ^{also} but due to
lack of tests as to stability and last it was decided to drop the marble ques-
tion in Pocahontas County for that purpose, but the future for the develop-
ment of marble in Pocahontas County looks bright. ✓

Building stone of sandstone formation suitable for building and mason-
ry construction is found all along the Western side of the Greenbrier River
the most that has been quarried has been used in bridge abutments building fo-
undations and steps where durability and abrasive resistance are important. All
the C & O Railroad bridge abutments were taken from sandstone quarries along the
Greenbrier River among these is the Knappe Creek Bridge, the Watoga Bridge and
others the best of sandrock formation for dimension stone is the Broad Ford
Sandstone. Sandstone building rock are found in the walls of the Bank of Marlinton
building *see quarries near Marlinton.*

Sandstone is found in great quantity on the Northern end of Droop Mt.
this section is known locally as "Tattlesnake Den" here you find massive rock
covering several acres many of these rock have been used in the buildings of
Watoga State Park, in towers and other buildings at the Droop Mountain Park al-
so in administrative buildings at the Federal Prison Camp on Cranberry (To be
continued)
Prof. Robert F. Peckham, Geol. V. Va. --- Calvin Price Marlinton, W. Va.
--- county reports of Poc. Co. In U. Va. Geological Survey, by Paul H. Price.